

1. (Twice Amended) A nonwoven fabric containing ~~thermoplastic~~ microfibers, said nonwoven fabric comprising:

thermoplastic synthetic fibers being about 5 to about 30 mm long and as fine as about 0.1 to 0.8 d, in about 90 to 10% by weight, mixed and mechanically entangled with pulp fibers being about 2 to 7 mm long, in about 10 to 90% by weight, so as to have a basis weight of about 10 to 80 g/m² as a [whole.] whole.

said fabric being in the form of a sheet having a plurality of protuberances that project from a surface of the sheet.

Please add new claims 6-8 as follows:

--8. A nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of protuberances have heights of about 0.2 to 5 mm and pitches of about 1 to 10 mm in lateral and transverse directions of the sheet.

--7. A nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of protuberances have conical shapes.--

--8. A nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of protuberances have pyramidal shapes.--